

RC&D



Natural Resources Conservation Service, Resource Conservation and Development

Georgia RC&D Councils Receives Environmental Achievement Award!

The Georgia Association of RC&D Councils was recently awarded a Certificate of for its No Till Assistance Program. The award was given by Renew America on behalf of the National Awards Council for Environmental Sustainability. The program identifies and recognizes significant achievements individuals and organizations are making by forming partnerships that meet environmental challenges. Renew America will pro-

mote these success stories and offer models to inspire others to "sustain our environment".

The No Till Assistance Program provides a cost effective service to landowners throughout Georgia and will be listed in the Environmental Success Index; a data base that communities can use to learn about successful environmental programs.

Foster Creek Project Demonstrates Riparian Benefits

Riparian areas are those zones adjacent to streams and rivers. Riparian areas have historically been overlooked as an important component of a watershed. Though they only occupy a small proportion of a watershed, their role is crucial. Riparian areas

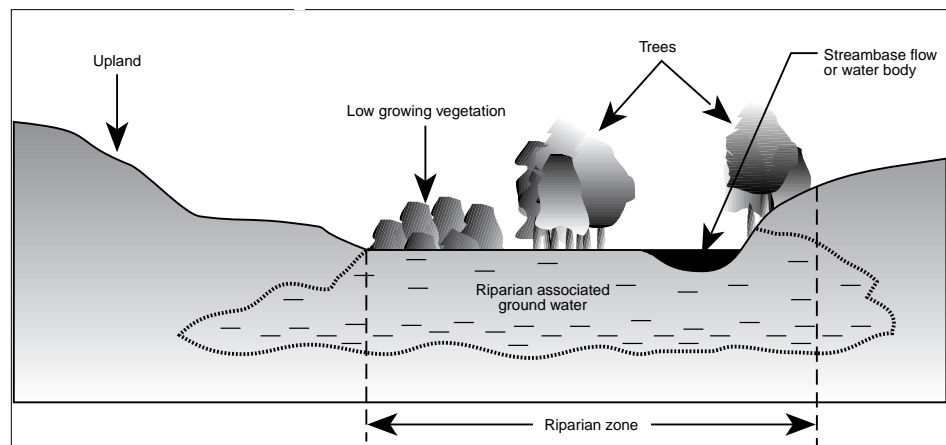
- protect and stabilize streambanks by dissipating energy during high flow periods;
- trap sediment and moisture,
- increase subsurface storage of water and increase summer streamflow;
- improve forage quality and quantity;
- remove and reduce pollutants by acting as filters, sinks and transformers;
- provide a seed source for native trees and shrubs; and
- provide habitat for a large variety of wildlife.

The Foster Creek Demonstration and Restoration Project is demonstrating these benefits. In addition, the project is showing how

riparian vegetation is restored, native rangeland and wildlife habitat improved, and the economic well-being of ranchers is improved with proper planning and grazing use.

Excessive soil erosion on highly erodible lands in central and western South Dakota is delivering alarming rates of sediment to streams, rivers, lakes, and reservoirs. This is the result of the loss of riparian (streamside) vegetation that occurred at the turn of the century and the overgrazing which occurred during this "homestead" period.

—Continued page 3



Forest Service Feeds Fire Storm...Of Cooperation!

What started to be a simple fund raising project of the Historic Trails RC&D Council to provide training materials to the Wyoming Fire Training Academy got out of hand. Sound bad? Not so! Cooperation is a wonderful thing!

The Wyoming Fire Training Academy in Riverton, Wyoming needed the "Essentials of Fire Fighting" mylar set that presents the NFPA 1000 standard. This module presents the information needed to train and certify volunteer Fire Fighters in the United States.

During the Council's fund raising emphasis, seven volunteer fire departments in Wyoming contributed \$450. The Historic Trails and Big Horn Basin RC&D Councils added \$400. The Big Horn National Forest got into the act with a \$400 check. That first \$1200 bought the Fire Academy the original illustrated Essentials of Fire Fighting module. This included the instructor and student manuals, and 19 chapters of carefully illustrated drawings on subjects like fire behavior, forcible entry, rescue, and ventilation.

This fire fighting module is well used by the Fire Chief's and training officers in Wyoming. Several of the training modules are always in the field, so much so that the need for another Fire Academy copy of "in-house" use became apparent.

At this point, the Medicine Bow - Rout National Forest through their Rural Development initiative provided funding to the Big Horn Basin RC&D Council to purchase three more modules to carry out the educational effort.

Carl Jungke, rural fire trainer for the Academy, was amazed at the responsiveness of the volunteer fire departments, USDA Forest Service and National Resource Conservation and Development. "When we got the first module, I couldn't believe they provided it for us. When three other training modules went on line...we're talking miracles."

Jerry Eichorn, chairman of the Historic Trails RC&D agrees. "RC&D is a miracle because it always fosters a spirit of cooperation to do the right thing for the greatest number."

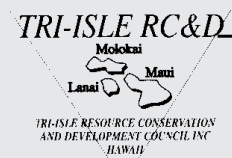
The Historic Trails RC&D is an applicant area. They share a coordinator with the Big Horn Basin RC&D. They look forward to becoming a USDA Authorized Project. A cooperative agreement between the Council and USDA's NRCS and Forest Service helps to develop and implement projects and foster cooperation.

Invasion of *Miconia calvenscens*!

An aggressive invader, the *Miconia calvenscens*, a tree species in the melastome family from South and Central America has found its way to Maui, Hawaii. The Tri-Isle RC&D Council is actively involved in trying to control this invasion.

The *Miconia calvenscens* has infested more than 400 acres in Hana. Tri-Isle RC&D Council Inc. acquired funds from the Office of Economic Development County of Maui for \$20,000 and \$190,000 from the state's Natural Area Partnership Fund to assist in the control of this invader.

Organizations collaborating in this effort include Maui Land and Pineapple Company, The Nature Conservancy, Haleakala National Park, the National Biological Service, State Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Forestry and Wildlife, State Department of Agriculture, USDA Forest Service, East Maui Irrigation Company, Tri-Isle RC&D Council, County of Maui, University of Hawaii Coop Parks Studies, University of Hawaii College of Tropical Ag & Human Resources, and the East Maui Watershed Partnership.

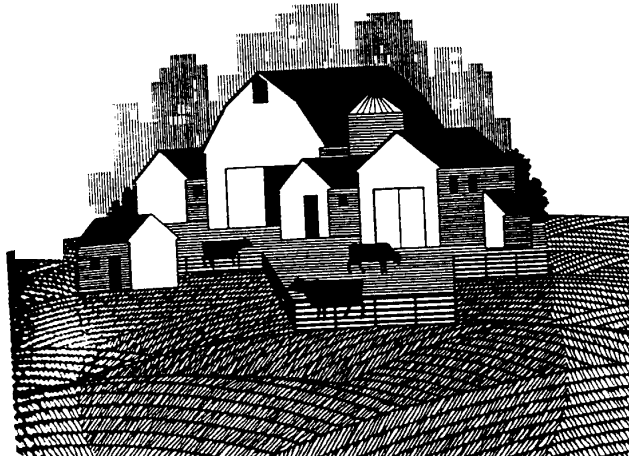


Areawide Animal Waste Team

Resource Conservation and Development! There is no better way to describe effective animal waste management, or the teamwork which has developed because of the Southwestern Illinois RC&D and the proactive approach it offered the farm community and government agencies responsible for providing education, planning and design assistance to livestock producers in the 15 counties served by the team.

The team met its goal of providing 200 producers with comprehensive animal waste plans. This is no small accomplishment; however, the real legacy of this team may well be the communication that has developed between the organizations. They represent private livestock producers, the individual producers, and the state and federal agencies which work with both.

Over the past 2 years a great deal of common ground and trust has been identified and developed. Producers have been offered opportunities to watch demonstrations of various types of equipment used to transport and apply animal waste for use of nutrients.



No less than three government entities were able to agree on the merits of a single computer software program and make it available to each NRCS field office in the project area. Producers who use this program to plan the application of stored waste are able to plan infinite variations of fields, crops, and application methods to determine the best combination of economic and environmental benefits for their particular farm.

Some producers have even purchased copies and do this planning on their own. This same program, the Manure Application Planner (MAP), developed at the University of Minnesota was later adopted across the State of Illinois by the Natural Resources Conservation Service and is available in each field office.

These accomplishments are just a few of the many examples of how the Southwestern Illinois RC&D Council has made a positive impact on resource conservation and development, not only in the Southwestern Illinois area, but actually made a difference across the state.

For more information contact the Southwestern Illinois RC&D Area office, 406 E. Main Street, Mascoutah, IL 62258, or phone (618) 566-4451.

Riparian Benefits — continued from page 1

Project activities include:

- establishing and improving grazing systems and incorporating “riparian Pastures”, constructing of sediment retention structures or “speed bumps” along Foster Creek and its tributaries;
- planting native trees; monitoring water quality and quantity, range conditions, riparian vegetation, and streambank stabilization; and
- conducting tours and disseminating information through print media, slide and poster presentations, brochures and videos.

Monitoring at the project site has demonstrated the potential to dramatically reduce sedimentation loads into the Missouri River Reservoirs.

The project is sponsored by the North Central RC&D Council and the Stanley County Conservation District. In addition, other agencies will be providing technical and/or financial support to the project.

The project is in the final year of implementation. If you have a group interested in riparian restoration and management, a video and slide presentation are available. If you are interested in touring the project or would like additional information, contact the North Central RC&D Office at (606) 224-1818.

Mississippi Karst Resource Planning Committee

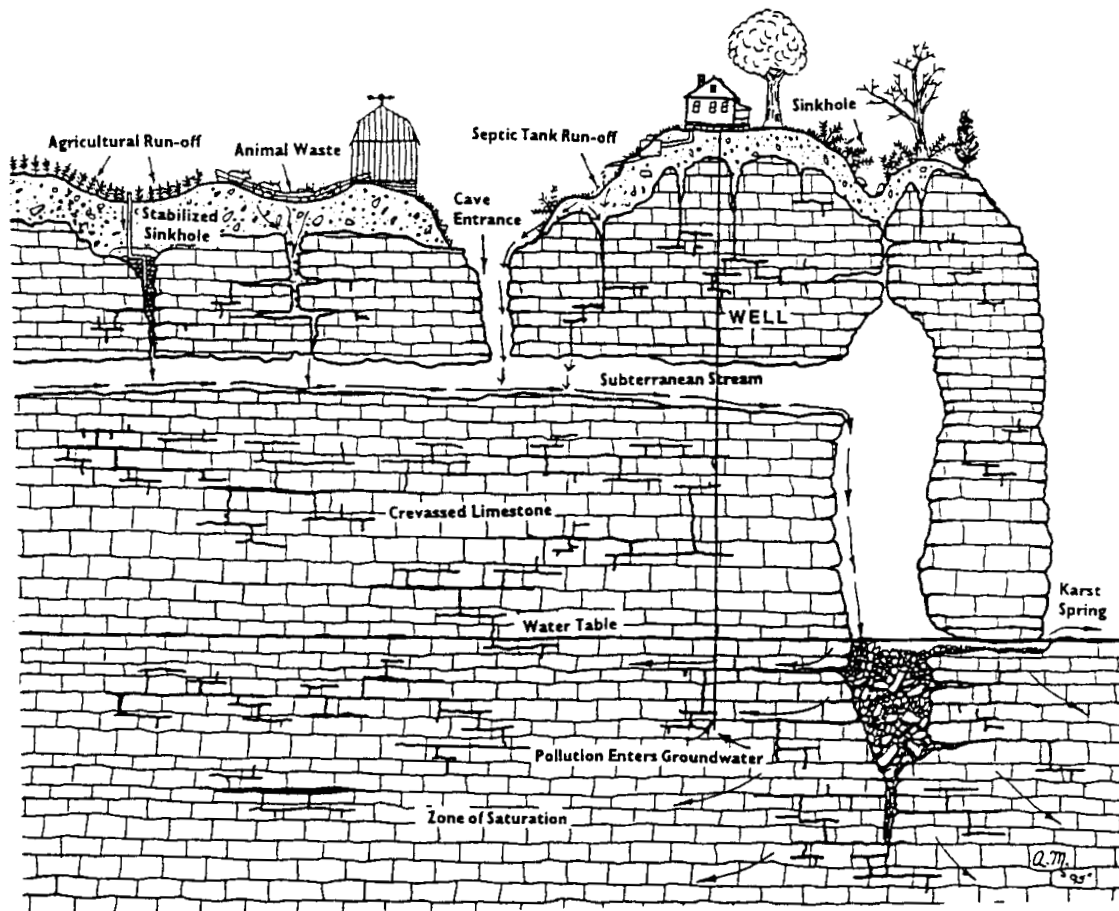
Since the beginning of the Southwestern Illinois RC&D in 1989, we have been working on educating people and community leaders on karst. Karst is an area of fractured limestone and often has surface sinkholes, caves, and springs. Water easily moves through the openings in the ground and through the fractures taking with it pollutants and other materials. Filtering of these pollutants is bypassed. Southwestern Illinois is an area with the highest concentrations of sinkholes to be found anywhere in the country.

In the past few years, the Southwestern Illinois RC&D has helped secure many projects for the karst region and this year was no exception. A \$320,000 319-grant karst education and ground water tracing and sampling project was approved. The Monroe Randolph Bi-County Health Department is serving as the project manager.

Kris Ahrens has been hired to serve as a karst educator for the next 2 years. Also included in the grant is ground water testing, well sampling, and dye training to determine the direction of ground water flows. Several other projects got underway this year, they included the 319 sinkhole stabilization and the Water Quality Implementation Program project in Randolph County.

The Monroe Randolph Bi-County Health Department worked on a new sewage code to begin to address the specific karst needs of the area. Both Monroe and Randolph Counties adopted the new sewage code.

For more information about this project contact the Southwestern Illinois RC&D office. Phone (618) 566-4451.



Karst illustration from Southwestern Illinois RC&D

Ethanol Plant Feasibility Study

From its inception in the late 1980's, the Southwestern Illinois RC&D was cognizant of ethanol as a product which might well play a key role in the future of the region's rural economic development efforts. And, when the RC&D discussed rural economic development, it was not uncommon for the channelized lower Kaskaskia River to be mentioned frequently.

In late 1993 these two ideas — ethanol and the lower Kaskaskia River — came together in the form of a proposal from both the St. Clair County Farm Bureau and the Randolph County Department of Economic Development. The proposal was for the Southwestern Illinois RC&D to pursue funding possibilities for an ethanol plant feasibility study on the lower Kaskaskia River.

An Ethanol Committee was formed by the Southwestern Illinois RC&D in January 1994, with Ed Crow, Director of the Randolph County Department of Economic Development, as Chairman. Greg Guenther from the St. Clair County Farm Bureau and the Illinois Corn Growers Association serves as a liaison member of this committee.

A second Ethanol Committee meeting was held in Red Bud at the office of the Kaskaskia Regional Port District. The Committee's strategy to secure financing for the feasibility study focused on applying for an EDA (Economic Development Administration) grant through the 7-county Southwestern Illinois Economic Development District. The technical services of the Southwestern Illinois Planning Commission were requested at this time.

The Ethanol Committee, understanding that an EDA grant of this type would require local matching dollars, then focused its efforts on getting local commitments from the Illinois Corn Marketing Board (\$10,000), the Kaskaskia Regional Port District (\$5,000), the Kaskaskia Industrial Development Corporation (\$5,000), the Randolph County Progress Committee (\$1,000), and others to match its request to EDA for \$24,750. (Note: Grant request under \$25,000 could be approved at the regional Office in Chicago without going on to Washington.) Meanwhile, various members of the Committee involved themselves in learning more about etha-

nol production. Two special opportunities included a January 1995, legislative tour of the ethanol plant at the Vienna Correctional Center and a March 1995, tour of Pekin Energy as part of a 3-day meeting of the North Central Association of RC&D's.

During this same time a limited number of consultants were contacted via a formal RFQ (Request For Qualifications) sent to a recommended mailing list. The Committee reviewed the material submitted by a small number of consultants interested in the project and continued to wait for a response from EDA. Unfortunately, EDA did not make a financial commitment to the project proposal in 1995 and, to complicate matters, the Illinois Corn Marketing Board did not opt to roll its financial commitment forward into 1996. The Committee is still awaiting additional word from EDA, but now faces a challenge of finding another major source of local matching dollars should EDA approve the grant request.

Meantime, the Committee is looking at the possibility of taking a different approach to bringing an ethanol plant to the lower Kaskaskia River Valley. This could involve a tie-in with the world's first corn-to-ethanol pilot plant to be built at University Park, the research and mixed-use technology park on the campus of Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. This project in Madison County is being funded with a \$441,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and should attract the attention of many energy-based concerns.

For more information or to share ideas about how to fund this project contact Ed Weilbacher, Coordinator, Southwestern Illinois RC&D. Phone: (618) 566-4451, FAX (618) 556-4452, or VoiceComm 345-9181.



Water Quality Vegetative Buffer Demonstration

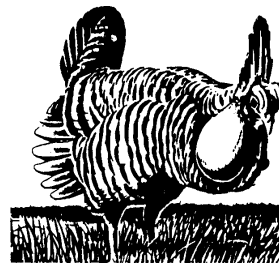
Prairie Country [MN] RC&D continues to move forward by implementing three woody riparian buffer demonstration projects. The buffers, patterned after a concept developed at Iowa State University, consists of trees, shrubs and grasses planted in away to maximize water quality enhancement. Two of the three buffer demonstration projects were successfully installed this spring. One of the Projects, located on the Chippawa River, in Chippewa County, involved planting about 700 trees and shrubs. Hybrid hazelnut was incorporated into this planting for wildlife and potential economic returns.

The other buffer planting installed this spring is located on the Minnesota River southeast of Montevideo. This planting also contained a variety of trees and shrubs and will also incorporate the "willow stick" streambank stabilization method on a portion of the buffer. A third buffer site in Swift County currently in the final planning stages and will be installed in 1997. This buffer will also incorporate the willow stick streambank stabilization method. In addition, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency plans to monitor surface and ground water at this site.

The buffer project is being funded, in part, through a Forest Stewardship Grant the Prairie Country Council obtained in 1995. County Water Plan funds are also helping to fund the projects.

As the plantings mature, information will be available on their performance and effectiveness. Tours of the sites are planned. This project may provide a key component to enhance the water quality of the Minnesota River.

For more information contact the Prairie Country RC&D Council office in Willmar, Minnesota. Phone(612) 231-0008.



Prairie Country RC&D

Dry Hydrants Effective In Kentucky

"Dry hydrants are a big help to our fire departments", said Sam Fizer, Mt. Carmel Volunteer Fire Department and Robert Drake, Muses Mill Volunteer Fire Department.

In February, the Mt. Carmel and the Hillsboro Volunteer Fire Departments assisted the Muses Mill Fire Department battle a 2,500 tire fire. Fizer said they hooked their front-mount pumper truck to a dry hydrant system and pumped for 5 hours from a pond that was iced over.

Robert Drake reported that during the 5 hours, they calculated 64,000 gallons of water was pumped through the dry hydrant system and shuttled to the fire scene. Drake went on to say that they had five hoses running at the same time

and that without the assistance of the dry hydrant system those five hoses could never have run simultaneously.

Drake said that the dry hydrants were a big asset to the community because there are a number of lumber mills in the area. If a fire started at a mill, they would need quick access to water; without water your hands are tied.

Installation of the dry hydrant systems in the Licking River Valley has been a joint effort of the Licking River Valley RC&D Council, Fiscal Courts, Fire Departments, Conservation Districts, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

For more information contact the Licking River Valley RC&D office at (606) 234-3352.

Hybrid Poplar—Future Tree of Fiber and Energy

The WesMin RC&D Council envisions hybrid poplar as becoming an alternative crop providing returns to landowners. Hybrid poplar is equal to or better than conventional crops. Environmental concerns about timber harvest in native forests can be minimized by planting hybrid poplar plantations whose intended use is to meet future fiber and energy needs. This “crop” can result in real rural economic development in Minnesota! The WesMin RC&D Council has made the commitment to fully support hybrid poplar efforts and research in Minnesota. The Council is also adamant about playing a cooperative role in the development of hybrid poplar as a crop, a renewable resource, and the resultant industrialization.

Successful establishment of hybrid poplar: To prepare a successful foundation for growing hybrid poplar, selection of deep fertile, well drained soils with good moisture holding capacity and a pH level between 5.5 and 7.5 is important. Establishing a successful hybrid poplar plantation begins with site preparation. If pre-emergent or other herbicides are used, consult a DNR forester or chemical dealer familiar with hybrid poplar. Commercial fertilizer applications are typically not needed, however some response

has been shown to a nitrogen application during the rotation period.

Ten-inch hardwood cuttings are planted in the spring at a depth of about 9 inches, leaving up to one inch protruding above the surface with the soil packed firmly around the cutting. The cuttings must be planted with the bud shoots pointing up. The condition of cuttings at planting time is critical. They should be free of insect damage, disease and mechanical injuries and should have several healthy buds. Also look for cuttings that are 3/8 inch to 1 inch in diameter. Hybrid poplar grows about 5 feet during the first year. In 2 years, the trees are approximately 12 feet. Harvesting is done when the trees are 7 to 15 years old and 7 to 15 inches in diameter. The trees should be harvested during the dormant season from October to late March to ensure the re-sprouting of the stumps that will allow another harvest in 6 to 15 years. Hybrid poplar yield from 4 to 6 dry tons (cords) per acre per year under high level management conditions.

For more information contact the WesMin RC&D Council office at 910, Highway 29 N., Alexandria, MN 56308. Phone (612) 763-4733.

Dry Fire Hydrants For Rural South Carolina

South Carolina RC&D Coordinators Steve Edwards and Keith Cains met with Peggy Lee of the South Carolina Department of Insurance Office to develop a cooperative effort between the RC&D Councils in South Carolina and the Department of Insurance to secure grant funding to install dry fire hydrants in South Carolina. Plans have been developed to install over 1,200 dry fire hydrants. An implementation plan is in place that will coordinate the efforts of federal, state, and local entities to install the needed dry fire hydrants in rural areas. This \$3.5 million project has the potential to provide over \$50 million of annual benefits for rural residents of South Carolina.

For more information contact Steve Edwards, Coordinator, Lowcountry RC&D, Walterboro, South Carolina. Phone (803) 549-5596

Albemarle RC&D Receives State Parks Award

Daryl McBane, North Carolina State Trails Coordinator and Tom Potter, Trails Specialist presented the NORTH CAROLINA STATE PARKS AWARD to the Albemarle RC&D Council for their work on the Regional Canoe Trails System. The presentation of the award was made at the 1996 North Carolina RC&D Association meeting held in Wilmington on May 16th.

Congratulations to the Albemarle RC&D Team!! If you would like more information about the Albemarle Program call the Council office in Edenton, North Carolina. Phone (919) 482-7437.



Institute For Rural Development

The Partnership for Rural Nebraska, which includes Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D), was created to provide rural development expertise and programs in the state. It was created August 9, 1995 through the charter signatures of E. Benjamin Nelson, Governor of Nebraska; L. Dennis Smith, representing the University of Nebraska; and Dan Glickman, representing the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The mission of the Partnership is to integrate and leverage resources for rural research, policy analysis, program delivery, and education and professional development.

In July, the Partnership for Rural Nebraska sponsored the "Institute for Rural Development" training session to provide current economic or community development courses that concentrate on the unique aspects and challenges of working in rural areas.

The training will be offered twice a year so that everyone involved with economic development will have an opportunity to participate in the core body of knowledge and skills required to meet the challenges faced in rural Nebraska.

USDA, NRCS provided \$10,000 at the National level in support of the "Partnership for Rural Nebraska." RC&D Councils and RC&D Coordinators in Nebraska are showing support in participating in this activity and other efforts as follows:

- Nebraska Development Network, Inc.,
- Nebraska Development Academy,

- Nebraska Economic Developers Association, and
- Nebraska Rural Commission.

Nine NRCS personnel participated in the "Institute for Rural Development" training. Those attending were RC&D Coordinators, Program Managers, and State Support Staff to the RC&D Program in Nebraska. This session was the first presentation of a series to provide service providers in rural America with the basic tools needed to help make a difference.

Benefits realized by the "Institute for Rural Development" are:

- Core curriculum aimed at rural economic development.
- Networking opportunity with federal, state, and local entities with names and faces.
- Factual information that provides basic tools for all service providers to use in problem solving, planning, and mediation effecting economic conditions in Rural America.
- The Institute for Rural Development is accredited by the American Economic Development Council (AEDC).

The Rural Partnership is looking to open enrollment to other states. It would be advantageous for other RC&D Program Managers and RC&D Coordinators to attend the "Institute for Rural Development" in Nebraska. The participants were asked to rate the Institute for Rural Development on a five-point scale from "excellent to poor." The responses were recorded, and an average score of 4.27 was calculated. I would recommend we encourage other RC&D Coordinators and program managers attend the next couple of sessions to evaluate the course's opportunities.

Three more Institutes for Rural Development are being scheduled:

- March 24-28, 1997, Sidney, Nebraska
- Summer, 1997, dates and city to be determined
- Winter, 1998, dates and city to be determined

For more information about this learning opportunity contact Kenneth Noonan, Assistant State Conservationist and RC&D Program Manager For Nebraska. Phone (402) 437-5302.

Operation Back Home Again!

Several communities in northeast Nebraska are participating in a program called “Operation Back Home Again.”

The Northeast Nebraska Resource Conservation and Development Council located at Plainview, as a means of economic development, wanted to encourage northeast Nebraska high school alumni to return to the area. Financial help from the State’s Department of Economic Development Office, with an LB-144 \$5,000 grant, has made this OBHA program possible in six towns in their six county area.

The counties are Antelope, Cedar, Dixon, Knox, Pierce and Wayne. The towns participating in the pilot program are Allen, Bloomfield, Creighton, Hartington, Neligh, and Osmond.

Project Chairman Norman Lorenz, said his committee would be contacting high school alumni from these communities with an invitation to return to northeast Nebraska to visit, live, raise a family, or retire.

The name “Operation Back Home Again” may be familiar to some because a similar type of program with the same name was applied at Wayne State College in 1992.

“It has the same name, but we definitely have different objectives,” he said. “The Wayne program was contacting alumni in regards to interest of employment opportunities. Our goal is to contact two targeted age groups: 30-35 years old, 60-65 years old, in-state as well as out-of-state residents.

A survey taken by a Rural Sociologist at University of Nebraska–Lincoln, show the three main reasons people move back home were to be closer to relatives, safety concerns, and quality schools.

Lorenz said, “Our hope that a personal invitation to come to northeast Nebraska will encourage those who have moved away from the area to not

only spend vacation time here, but possibly encourage them to relocate to the area. For many positive reasons, we believe Nebraska is the “good life” and northeast Nebraska gets “even better”.

“Reasons for concentrating on those certain age groups is because we felt that young adults between 30-35 may be in the process of establishing or looking for a career change and are in the right position or time of their life where they would consider buying an established business, or starting a new business,” he said.

Lorenz said more importantly is what this area has to offer in terms of quality of life. “We have some of the cleanest air and water, excellent school systems, and high moral values that are reflected in the low crime rate. With the recent use of telecommunications and satellites, big business can return to the less populated areas making our rural communities competitive.”

“The same type of information would be sent the 60-65 age group with the hope that they would consider retirement in a smaller town,” he said. Lorenz said the program was meant to also include local people, by encouraging them to plan mini-vacations in their own areas, and to be “Ambassadors-at-Large” promoting Nebraska’s work ethic and quality of life issues to others.

“The OBHA program is anticipating sending an area brochure, an explanation of the program, and a return postcard to the targeted alumni. A second mailing is being planned with a possible “information page” listing interesting facts about the communities and a one-on-one follow-up for those asking for information from specific towns. It is the desire of the RC&D Council that the program will become self sustaining.

For more information contact the Northeast Nebraska RC&D office in Plainview, Nebraska. Phone: (402) 582-4866.

Trailblazer Develops Wildlife Planting Guide

Fall is right around the corner. Many area sportsmen already have their thoughts on upcoming hunting seasons and are thinking about planting food plots, but have no idea how to get started or what to plant. The Trailblazers Wildlife Planting Guide was designed to provide information necessary to develop food plots and to improve wildlife habitats.

Productive wildlife habitats starts with good planning. Both time and money can be wasted on management practices that are not given due consideration. Trailblazer's goal is to give readers of the Guide the basic information they need to meet the year round needs of wildlife in their areas.

The Guide begins with information on how to get started, the equipment needed, soil preparation, and recommended fertilizers. Then, the discussion of planting materials is divided into two categories; those planted in the spring and summer, and those planted in the fall and winter. Each material discussed includes a brief description of the plant, site selection, planting rate, planting date, and other comments. A descrip-

tion of quality land management practices for various wildlife is given as well.



Trailblazer hopes the Guide will be used to improve wildlife habitats in the area. Production of the booklet will be completed in time to get ready for the Fall and Winter planting season.

The production of The Trailblazer Wildlife Planting Guide was made possible with the help of many area sponsors.

A limited supply of copies of the Guide will be available at sponsor locations and during the annual Lincoln Parish SF Sportsmen's Jamboree in September. Be sure to mention that Trailblazer sent you.

If you are unable to locate a copy of the Guide and would be interested in obtaining a copy at a future date, please contact the Trailblazer office for further details. Phone (318) 255-3554. Trailblazer RC&D is located at 302 Reynolds Drive, Ruston, Louisiana 71270.

Lowcountry RC&D Assists Ruffin High School, SC

Ruffin High School located in the rural northern section of Colleton County, South Carolina, was established in 1954. The high school has been without a baseball field and an area for track and field since being built. The enrollment is 87 percent minority and over 25 percent of the students' families are below poverty level.

In 1995 the school received a \$5,732 grant to help build a recreational area. Federal funds provided by the Natural Resources Conservation Service through the Lowcountry RC&D Council and technical assistance were made available to the school and community. Assistance in coordinating the project, wetland delineations, mitigation's for loss of wetlands and engineering was provided.

The Colleton County Board of Education, Colleton County Council, Colleton Soil and Water Conservation District, the Natural Resources

Conservation Service, Lowcountry RC&D Council, the Ruffin Community and the school formed partnerships to assist this socially and economically disadvantaged school and area.

The total cost of the baseball field with lights, stands, dugouts, and fencing was \$55,576.

In a letter from Principal Queenie L. Crawford, Ruffin High School, appreciation was expressed for the baseball/softball facility. She emphasized the baseball team made the playoffs for the first time! "This is just the beginning of the impact this assistance will have on the students, administration, faculty, staff and community of Ruffin," said Crawford. The recreational facility will make Ruffin's community and school much more attractive to potential industry and residents interested in locating in this area.

Contact Steve Edwards, Coordinator, Lowcountry RC&D. Phone (803) 549-5596.

Historically Significant Seedlings?

Two Rivers RC&D, along with the Georgia Power Company, have added a touch of greenery and history to local communities in Lamar and Talbot Counties.

Seedlings derived from the homes of historical figures have been planted by students at Lamar and Talbot County Elementary Schools.

Lamar students planted trees such as the Abraham Lincoln Overcup Oak and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Sycamore. Talbot students planted trees such as the Trail of Tears Water Oak and the Gettysburg Sycamore. The Gettysburg Sycamore came from one of the remaining sycamores left standing from the Civil War battle that killed 51,000 soldiers.



Each tree comes with a framed certificate detailing its significance. Also included are lesson plans and audiovisuals for classroom instruction.

David Thomas of Georgia Power Co., sums up the American Forests' Historic Tree Program this way, "It's more than just a day devoted to planting trees. It's a hands-on teaching concept that combines environmental education with our nation's historical heritage."

For more information contact the Two Rivers RC&D Council, Inc., by dialing (706) 885-0101.

Northeast Michigan Karst Aquifer Protection Project

A new 319-Project has come to Northeast Michigan!! It is called the Northeast Michigan Karst Aquifer Protection Project. It is sponsored by the Presque Isle Soil Conservation District in partnership with several organizations and agencies throughout the area, including Huron Pines RC&D. The project area encompasses all of Presque Isle County, as well as Alpena, Long Rapids, and Maple Ridge Townships in Alpena County — the karst area of the Thunder Bay River Basin Project.

Basically, karst terrain describes area underlain by calcite rock, such as limestone, which has been dissolved by the action of water. Karst areas are characterized by surface features such as sinkholes, swallow holes, and disappearing streams that form when water chemically dissolves the rock. As intriguing as this geological phenomena can be, karst increases the threat of ground water contamination and the danger to public health. To address these threats the District hopes to have cost-share funds available to help concerned landowners install preventative Best Management Practices (BMPs) to protect the water supply.

Cost-share funding will be limited to specific systems of BMPs identified by the Steering Committee. These BMPs fall under the categories of karst, agricultural, road corridors, and residential. There are a variety of practices eligible for cost-share funds under these categories. Examples of Best Management Practices would be as follows:

- limiting access to sinkholes traditionally used as dumping sites;
- implementing rotational grazing systems in sensitive karst areas;
- diverting runoff away from swallowholes and sinkholes located in roadside ditches; and
- demonstration closing of improperly constructed wells and installation of properly constructed replacement wells in areas of known contamination.

Now that the project is in the transition year, we are beginning to write individual plans for BMP installation in sensitive areas in preparation for the implementation phase. Interested landowners should call the Conservation District at (517) 734-4000 for more information.

Corporate Funding Programs

The Coca-Cola Foundation

The Coca-Cola Foundation, established in 1984, is dedicated exclusively to education. Coca-Cola has chosen education because the corporation as a whole aligns itself with the idea that “education can help recast a community’s economic future.” The foundation looks for programs with nontraditional, sometimes unusual approaches to problems in education that have been difficult to solve so far, even if they require a little bit of risk.

The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation

The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation was created in 1986, Coca-Cola’s 100th anniversary. Coke sells concentrate and syrup to bottlers in different parts of the country, and in 1986 those bottlers set up an endowment of \$1.4 million each year for scholarships to high school students who not only excel in school but show commitment to their communities. For more information, contact the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation at (404) 676-2568.

The PepsiCo Foundation

PepsiCo has five divisions: Pepsi, Frito-Lay, Pizza Hut, Taco Bell, and Kentucky Fried Chicken. The PepsiCo Foundations efforts are directed towards education of youth. Jacqueline Millan of PepsiCo says that more giving decisions are being made “at the field level, in operating locations.” Last year, the foundation supported \$8.5 million in programs.

Direct corporate giving is done through local bottlers. They commit half their funds to programs for young people. Local bottlers should be contacted first for information about programs or funding.

Pepsi offers product donations. Pizza Hut has the Book It program, a literacy incentive for elementary schools. Kentucky Fried Chicken focuses its efforts on education.

For more information contact, local bottlers and business operators.

Miller Brewing Company

Miller Brewing Company gives mostly in major operating communities in Irwindale, CA; Albany, GA; Trenton, OH; Eden, NC; and Fort Worth, TX. Other operating locations have small discretionary budgets for community efforts. Although priorities change from year to year based on community needs, a general priority is education of the future workforce.

Tools for Success’ is one of Miller’s most successful independent programs. The program puts tools in the hands of graduates once they have the education, giving post-graduation scholarships to vocational training school graduates. For example, automobile mechanics need up to \$10,000 for tools to get started in their field, Miller gives as much as \$2,500 to auto mechanic graduates for tools. Another example, Miller supplies nursing students with up to \$600 for equipment they need to perform their duties.

“Read About Me” is a partnership between Miller and public libraries, which was initiated in 1993. Miller helps libraries acquire multicultural books.

To acquire about any of Miller’s programs contact Janet Christianias, Community Relations Representative at (414) 931-2000.

"My Little Corner Of The World"

Have you ever tried to explain to a young person why we cut trees? It isn't a simple task. The Texas Forestry Association has published a 30-page children's hardcover book designed to make it easier. Many involved in forestry provide the books to local middle schools and have a fun filled morning that includes reading the book and participating in Project Learning Tree activities. Full of large print and color photographs, the book was a class project of an environmental education student and daughter of a logging contractor.

For copies or more information, contact Ron Hufford, Texas Forestry Association, Box 1488, Lufkin, TX 75902-1488. Phone (409) 632-TREE

CD-ROM's Assist With Education & Technology Transfer

Two more forestry-natural resources CD-ROM'S have hit the streets in 1996. The first, Southern Trees: An Expert System for Selecting Trees covers hardiness zones 5 through 11 and can view and print more than 2,500 photographs. Through the use of the CD you can access data for 887 trees and shrubs including plant descriptions, hardiness zones, suggested uses, cultural needs, soil/environmental tolerances, pest and disease problems, maintenance requirements, cultivars and related species. For more information about this CD contact the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences at the University of Florida (352) 392-3886.

The other CD-ROM is called the Miracle Resource and was developed by the Temperate Forest Foundation. It utilizes color photos, video, quizzes and other interactive tools to share the message of wood's important role in sustaining human populations and quality of life.

For a copy of this CD contact the Temperate Forest Foundation, 14780 SW Osprey Drive, Suite 355, Beaverton, OR 97007. Phone (503) 579-6762.

Taking Advantage Of New Technology

A proposed project, awaiting final approval, will put the Tennessee Wilderness Road Guide on an interactive CD-ROM computer disk. The CD-ROM will allow potential visitors to take a preliminary tour of sites using their computers.

Several historic and scenic attractions will be featured for the viewer to select. Each selection will show a live-action video sequence and give a brief explanation of the site.

AmeriCorps member Jeremy Williams says the CD-ROM is a clearer, more organized form of communication for potential visitors.

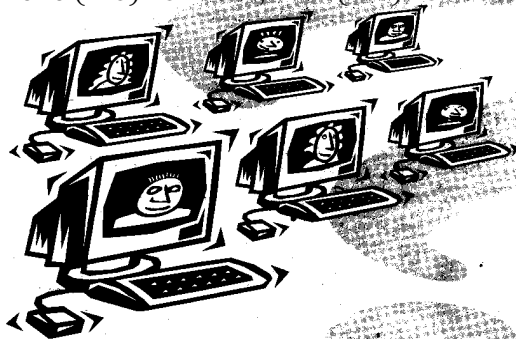
Currently information on the Tennessee Wilderness Road and other RC&D projects is available on the Internet. You can reach our Internet website at <http://www.home.aol.com/bacarditn>. Our address for the Wilderness Road Guide is <http://funnelweb.utcc.utk.edu/~gangwrrc>.

For more information about this activity contact the Clinch-Powell RC&D office in Rutledge, Tennessee by dialing (423) 828-5927.

The Grantsmanship Center Magazine

Be sure to take a look at your Summer 1996 issue of The Grantsmanship Center Magazine. There are some excellent articles about using Internet and about 501 (c) (3) formation and activities.

If you are not receiving The Grantsmanship Center Magazine and would like too, call or fax them to subscribe - It's Free!
Phone (213) 482-9860, FAX (213) 482-9863.





Managing Alaska Fish Waste

Ninilchik, Alaska, located on the Kenai Peninsula about 150 miles south of Anchorage, is a small rural community whose main livelihood comes from commercial fishing, sport fishing, and tourism related activities.

The area is well known for its salmon and halibut sport fishing. Beginning in the early 1980's, the halibut harvest dramatically increased. In 1995, Alaska Department of Fish and Game harvest estimated that about 80,000 halibut were caught in Ninilchik and the surrounding area.

The accumulation and improper disposal of halibut carcasses, caused by an increase in recreational fishing and charter boat operations in the Ninilchik area was impacting the area's beaches by creating aesthetic and public health and safety concerns. During the 1995 season, the Department of Fish and Game estimated that about 7,800 pounds of fish waste was generated per day during the peak summer months.

The Kenai Peninsula RC&D Council, in cooperation with the Deep Creek Charter Boat Association, The Ninilchik Chamber of Commerce, the Kenai Peninsula Borough Solid Waste Department, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation and local Ninilchik citizens developed and launched a major informational outreach effort to educate charter operators and the general public on the proper methods of fish waste disposal.

Educational efforts included local citizens meetings, brochure and poster development and distribution, a letter writing campaign, and personal contact with local businesses and charter operators. Primary funding for the educational program was provided by the Kenai Peninsula Borough Solid Waste Department.

In addition to the information and educational campaign, the owner of a local fish processing and packing business volunteered to establish a central fish waste collection facility and obtained permission from the Division of Environmental Conservation to transport and bury the waste in an upland site.

Preliminary monitoring during the 1996 season indicates that the effort has been successful, with little sign of fish waste or carcasses being deposited on the beaches.

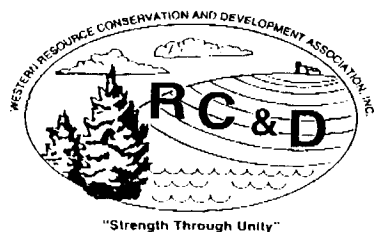
Long-term solutions, including construction of a composting facility, the development of an incinerator, or the use of a grinder, with the fish waste being returned to the Cook Inlet, are currently being explored as possible alternatives by the RC&D Council and the local fish waste committee.

For more information about this program, call Mark Weatherstone, Coordinator, Kenai Peninsula RC&D office, (907) 283-7493.

Play *Environmental Concerns*

An exciting new board game *Environmental Concerns* that helps educate players about environmental issues such as recycling, air pollution, and water quality is now available through the NACD Service Center. A cooperator of the Luzerne County Conservation District in Pennsylvania developed the game and asked the district to serve as its distributor. The game is ideal for classrooms, and it is made entirely from recycled materials: game pieces and all. It is printed on recycled paper with soybean ink.

Each game costs \$19.95 plus shipping and handling. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Luzerne County CD. Call the NACD Service Center at 1-800-825-5547 or write NACD, P.O. Box 855, League City, TX 77574-0855.



NRCS West Region RC&D Strategic Planning Meeting

Cheryl Banta, Secretary of the Western Association of RC&Ds recently attended (June 3-4) the NRCS West Region Strategic Planning Meeting in Sacramento, California. Along with Cheryl there were RC&D Coordinators, Program Managers and Council members from throughout the Western Region who participated in this planning effort.

The Strategic Plan is a management tool to address and prioritize the vast range of natural resource issues that exist in the Western United States. It will also be used as an aid to Congress in determining future funding. This meeting was specifically conducted to gather RC&D input for the West Region Strategic Plan. The West Region Strategic Plan will be the first of its kind for the NRCS so the prospect of being leaders was exciting. In attendance were RC&D representatives from Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Oregon, Nebraska, Utah, and Washington DC. Several partner agencies were also represented including EPA, Rural Development, and Cooperative Extension.

A draft of the NRCS West Region Strategic Plan was completed. In the draft, seven priority resource issues were named based on the results of an extensive participation effort with custom-

ers, partners, and employees. The seven priority issues include: Water Resources, Grazing Lands, Forest Lands, Fish and Wildlife Habitat, Urban Conservation and Rural Sustainability, and Air Quality.

To gather the RC&D input, the RC&D team in Sacramento broke into small group to work on the seven priority issues. Each group was asked to —

- Develop additional information for Strategic Approach to the issues
- Develop necessary 2002 targets (5 year goals)
- Develop annual performance indicators

The results of this work is available. It is safe to say that an incredible effort was made to clarify RC&D's role as a rural development leader and partner as well as a natural resource educator and facilitator.

Our planning today will have a profound impact on what this region will be in the 21st century, so many thanks go out to NRCS for the opportunity to assist in the planning effort. By working together we can more successfully achieve the locally identified goals of the Western Region of rural America.

— Source of this article - Western RC&D Quarterly, June 1996.

Start Teaching About Water

Recent studies show that people believe protecting freshwater supplies should be a national priority and that both adults and youth want to know more. However, such topics often get overshadowed by more visible environmental issues.

The University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension has several resources to help get water

education programs started. These include a guide to goals and resources, a guide to program planning and evaluation, a guide to unique program strategies, and a 53-minute video called "Planning for Fun and Success!"

Call the Environmental Resources Center at 1-800-276-0462 for a free brochure.

RC&D Program - A Successful USDA Grassroots Initiative

- RC&D Councils offer a multi-county approach to problem solving. Financial, human, and other resources are in short supply in most communities. RC&D provides a means for communities to share and combine their efforts, talents and resources to achieve important local goals.
- RC&D Councils undertake community driven actions that are strategically focused on regional resource conservation and economic viability. One of the most important activities of an RC&D Council is the development and implementation of a Regional Action Plan. Regional Action Plans identify ways and means for accomplishing important regional goals.
- RC&D Councils offer the ability to build and strengthen local leadership capacity. RC&D Councils provide a mechanism for bringing together the wisdom of senior local leaders with the enthusiasm of youth. RC&D Councils help local leaders acquire the technical knowledge and information they need to cut through government “red tape” and get things done for their communities.

Get A Free Rural Design Booklet

NRCS and the National Endowment for the Arts recently published a booklet on how rural communities can use landscape architectural assistance to promote sustainable development and improve local resources.

The booklet features case studies from rural areas in Utah, Iowa and Georgia, where landscape architects helped residents carry out projects to preserve the character and landscape of their small towns.

Copies of “Managing Change in Rural Communities: The Role of Planning and Design” are available free from the Soil and Water Conservation Society at 1-800-THE-SOIL.

Order A Rural Living Handbook

The Turkey Creek Soil Conservation District in Pueblo, Colorado and its partners recently completed a rural living handbook which aims to help rural communities deal with the migration of traditional urban dwellers onto small rural acreages.

The handbook fast became a “one-stop” education source for NRCS offices, county planners, health departments, State Extension offices, regional building inspectors, fire departments, and other private and business concerns. This 108-page book includes a detailed section on small scale agriculture, and it also covers topics like zoning rules, septic systems, weeds, wildlife, health, mail and trash. It also includes a section on where landowners can go for help.

To order a copy of the handbook, write Turkey Creek SCD, 1626 West Highway 50, Pueblo, CO 81008. Each handbook costs \$5, includes postage and handling. For details, call (719) 543-8384

Access Renew America's Environmental Success Index

Renew America's Environmental Success Index is now on the World Wide Web. It chronicles more than 1,600 projects across the country that measurably protect, restore or enhance the environment.

These success stories can be accessed on Renew America's home page at: http://solstice.crest.org/renew_america

This interactive web site allows the visitor to conduct specified search for particular programs or topics and allows access to related environmental, business and government web sites.

The Environmental Success Index is also available in print. Call Renew America at 1-800-922-7363 for details.

Kellogg Collection Available On-Line

After 2 years of development, The W.K. Kellogg Collection of Rural Community Development Resources is available to practitioners, scholars, students and citizens who want to locate resources that focus on a wide variety of rural topics. The collection was created by the Heartland Center in cooperation with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln libraries.

The collection contains rural community development materials funded by the Kellogg Foundation and other selected sponsors of recognized rural programs. Guidebooks, manuals, workshop materials, reports, books and organizations include government, private organizations, regional rural development centers, universities and colleges and Extension Service.

A World Wide Web home page has been created for the collection. An annotated bibliography of the collection is available via the home page. The home page URL is <http://www.unl.edu/kellogg/index.html>. The materials are divided into seven categories:

- Community Development
- Strategic Planning
- Leadership Development
- Economic Development
- Land Use/Natural Resources
- Health Care
- Telecommunications/education

Links are provided for each of the categories so that users can go directly to the category and associated annotations of interest.

The Heartland Center is continually accepting material nominations for the collection. If you want to nominate materials for the collection send an E-mail message via the home page or write Heartland Center, 941 "O" Street, Suite 920, Lincoln, NE 68508 or call 1-800-927-1115 ext. 805

National distribution of RC&D Notes is made quarterly. The winter issue is due out January 1, 1996. Deadline for articles you wish to have considered for publication in the winter issue of the RC&D Notes is December 1, 1996. Please send contributions to -

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Your comments, suggestions, and contributions are greatly appreciated. Your information and ideas are important to others. Please take the time to share them.

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